

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS, SYDNEY.

No. 1.

BY J. H. MAIDEN AND E. BETCHE.

(a). NOTES ON RARE PORT JACKSON PLANTS.

UMBELLIFERÆ.

SIEBERA STEPHENSONII, Benth.

Trachymene Stephensonii, Turcz. Collected in January, 1895, by Mr. W. W. Froggatt near Botany, and in January, 1897, by Mr. W. Forsyth (Overseer of the Centennial Park, and now a member of this Society), near La Perouse. It was previously specifically recorded only from Manly. (Also "within 125 miles of Sydney" in Bentham's *Flora Australiensis*).

COMPOSITÆ.

HELICHRYSUM ADNATUM, Benth.

Syn. *H. retusum*, F.v.M. (partim) F. v. Mueller, *Census*, also *Fragm.* viii. 46. Collected in November, 1890, by E. Betcher near Oatley, and in November, 1896, by Mr. J. Boorman near Hurstville. It is not recorded as a Port Jackson plant in Bentham's *Flora Australiensis*, nor in Dr. Woolls' "Plants Indigenous to the neighbourhood of Sydney," though "Port Jackson" (sometimes, however, a designation for a very wide geographical area, as used by the older botanical writers), is given as the habitat in De Candolle's *Prodromus*, Vol. vi. p. 166.

LEGUMINOSÆ.

ACACIA BAUERI, Benth.

Collected near Rose Bay in 1886, has been recently discovered by Mr. W. Forsyth in a second Sydney locality, the Centennial

Park. *Acacia Baueri* was originally described from specimens obtained from North Australia, and very few localities (including Richmond River and Hunter River) are recorded between the North Coast of Australia and Port Jackson.

GRAMINEÆ.

ERiachNE obtusa, R. Br.

Collected in May, 1897, by Mr. W. Forsyth near Rose Bay. It is an almost glabrous form, with no woolly hairs on the base of the stem as in the desert forms; the outer glumes are quite glabrous, and the hairs on the flowering glumes are shorter and more appressed than in the typical form. The species has been previously recorded only, as regards New South Wales, from the western districts, though it is found in Queensland near the coast.

The belt of low land extending from Rose Bay to the sandhills of Bondi from which *Acacia Baueri* and *Eriachne obtusa* have been obtained, is also the habitat of the rare *Dodonæa filifolia*, Hook., (already recorded as a Port Jackson plant in Moore & Betché's *Handbook of the Flora of N.S. Wales*). It is a remarkable fact that these three northern plants have been found in such close proximity to each other, and this seems to indicate that they are the survivors of a time in which northern plants extended further south than at the present day.

Dodonæa filifolia was, previously to its discovery near Rose Bay, only recorded from Queensland, but it is closely allied to the Tasmanian *D. ericifolia*, G. Don, and the common ancestral form of the two species extended probably along the whole East coast of Australia, our Port Jackson plants being apparently the sole survivors in N.S. Wales and Victoria, and the connecting link between the Tasmanian *D. ericifolia* and the Queensland *D. filifolia*. The Port Jackson specimens are distinguished from Major Mitchell's, Dr. Leichhardt's, and other Queensland specimens in the Herbarium of the Botanic Gardens, by shorter, broader, more curved and crowded leaves, as well as by the shorter

peduncles, and approach the Tasmanian *D. ericifolia* so closely, that it becomes a matter of doubt and difficulty to decide to which of the two species they should be attributed. Bentham writes in 1863 in a footnote to the description of *D. ericifolia* in the *Flora Australiensis*:—"The station Port Jackson, usually given on the authority of plants raised in Kew Gardens is, I believe, erroneous; the seeds were probably from Fraser, who gathered the plant on S. Esk River in Tasmania."

It seems to us more likely that the supposed mistake did not occur, and that the Kew Gardens plants in question were raised from seeds really collected near Sydney, but determined at that time at Kew as *D. ericifolia*, so that the discovery of *D. filifolia* in the Port Jackson district may be only the rediscovery of a lost locality. Now, we are sorry to say, *D. filifolia* seems to be fast dying out in the Port Jackson district; hardly half a dozen plants could be found in 1896 in the same locality in which it abounded in 1883.

(b). PLANTS NEW FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

LEGUMINOSÆ.

ACACIA ALPINA, F.v.M.

Summit of Mt. Tabletop, near Kiandra (E. Betcher, February, 1897). Previously recorded from alpine summits of Victoria. In addition to Mt. Tabletop it has been found on the top of two other mountains near Kiandra, always strictly confined to the wind-swept summit, where it forms dense patches, often more than ten feet in diameter and about two or three feet high.

It may be of interest to mention here that *Richea Gunnii*, Hook., first discovered in N.S. Wales as recently as 1893 by Mr. R. Helms on Mt. Kosciusko, is common in nearly all the swamps near Kiandra, an indication of how imperfectly the Kiandra district has been botanically explored.

COMPOSITÆ.

PTERIGERON DENTATIFOLIUS, F.V.M.

Olive Downs, Grey Range (W. Bäuerlen, 1886). Previously recorded from S. Australia.

ORCHIDEÆ.

GEODORUM PICTUM, Lindl.

Byron Bay (E. Betcher, March, 1896). The pseudobulbs were collected in a swampy forest, together with *Phajus grandifolius*, Lour., and *Calanthe veratrifolia*, R. Br., and flowered under cultivation in the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, in January, 1897. Previously recorded from Queensland and North Australia.